

Freedom of Opinion

Opposition to Scientology

We would like to say something to your readers who have heard Scientology say quite a lot about itself in your paper, its ads, and even spots on rock stations. We have undergone regular Scientology processing for periods of free three to twelve months. A very one-sided view has been presented of what you get when you enter Scientology.

A close friend for many years had a high paying job, a draft deferment, a girl friend and frequent groovy trips. Three thousand dollars has been paid to Scientology for processing and he now has none of these things. In

the judgment of all his old friends who have seen him recently, his ability to think about complex problems (such as the draft) has deteriorated markedly, in a manner similar to the (usually temporary) cognitive "hangover" that sometimes follows a series of very heavy, very bad trips. To judge Scientology on this alone would certainly be premature; when he has undergone another three thousand dollars of processing we will write another letter about the finished product, whatever it may be.

Scientology has an even less scientific attitude toward drugs than the FDA. They require you to sign a pledge that you will NEVER AGAIN use any psychedelics, including pot. There are no exceptions to this policy. Scientology considers all psychedelic drugs harmful. If you want to be processed, you must wait between four and six weeks after the last use of pot. You can drink alcohol regularly (up to 24 hours before being processed) and smoke tobacco and still remain a Scientologist.

Scientology holds as a dogma that a Clear will not be mentally affected by LSD. We say that this is a dogma because this experiment has never been conducted, and Scientologists say that their theory is so perfect that no experiment is needed to confirm this prediction.

Scientology has a system of thought police (which their E Meter, a simplified Lie Detector, makes quite feasible) known as Ethics Officers. The aim of these people is to maintain the efficiency and purity—they equate these—of their religion, Scientology. This could also be said of Torquemada and his Inquisition. If they issue a command regarding your conduct during training or in your personal life, you cannot question it or you may be put into what they call a Condition of Doubt. This could happen, for example, if you tried to question their policy on drugs by presenting the evidence on the relative dangers of alcohol and cannabis. In order to stay in Scientology and not be downgraded into a worse Condition, you must go through a stereotyped Doubt Formula which usually does not lead to factual answers for the questions that you raised, but instead is used as a psychological conditioning tool. You must agree with all Scientology policies; you are not allowed to examine the raw experimental data and decide for yourself which policies are supported by the evidence and which are Run Hubbard's opinions. The data that is available is selected anecdotal material and opinions—usually mislabelled scientific facts. You are not allowed to think that Scientology is 50 percent or even 90 percent correct and the remainder in error—you MUST hold Ron's policies to be perfect, incapable of error, and infallible if you are to remain a Scientologist.

You must agree to make no statements criticizing Scientology except to the "proper" Scientologists. Public criticism can result in the Ethics Office assigning you a Condition of Enemy of Scientology. Ron has publicly stated that it is a policy of Scien-

tology to take care of its enemies by investigating their pasts (and they have the staff to do it too) and informing the authorities of all suspicious activities and "crimes." Heads, beware! You could lose your job and even go to prison for criticizing Scientology. There is also the policy of Fair Game; a Scientologist may cheat, rob, and even murder a person in this Condition with the blessings of the Church!

Go to the Sea Org headquarters (you can never have used grass or acid if you want to join the Sea Org—they also will have nothing to do with draft evaders) at 916 Westlake in Los Angeles and look at all the uniformed personnel working under a sign proclaiming "Galactic Control." These people are "true believers" in the sense of Eric Hoffer's fine book. In our opinion, they are spaced out (partly as a result of

their extensive processing to separate the mind from the body) on a classical paranoid megalomaniacal Power Trip. Beware!

We do not think that Scientology should be made illegal or that they should be hassled by the Police. A man has a right to do whatever he wishes with his mind and body so long as he coerces no one else.

Scientology is not worthless and without merit. Many of their lower level techniques are very beneficial and more effective than conventional methods, whatever the truth of their theoretical superstructure. We would be happy to see the E Meter or any similar device widely used by psychotherapists. You can probably profit from lower level (through Level 4 anyway) processing if you remember that most Scientologists are dogmatic religious true believers and that, although their system can free you from many hangups, it systematically imprints the freshly freed and very impressionable parts of your mind with their own trip—Scientology.

For fun or as an aid to the solution of psychological problems, we recommend cannabis, and,

with some warnings, LSD and psilocybin. We also recommend Scientology through Level 4 but with a more severe warning: with acid, etc., you are not in an institutional environment where everybody systematically cooperates to lay their Leader's trip on you by conversations, by the total environment, and by their processing.

Names of authors
withheld by request